

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Charles G. Boetsch and Amy R. Fowler, Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Ward and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Present for this discussion was Treasurer David A. Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen J. Ward.

D. Parkman reported that the yearly Corrections reimbursement had arrived in the approximate amount of \$156,000.00. 20% was being held back at this point until all the counties had sent in their paperwork for the Uniform Accounting Reports Form. This 20% did not show in the Reserve accounts until the Commissioners vote for it to be moved.

**REVENUE:**

D. Parkman reported that 61% had been garnered so far. J. Hyk wanted to discuss revenue for next year. The Commissioners asked K. Ward to consult with Probate, Deeds and others and appropriate income-generating departments to figure out the revenues by also averaging the previous three years. (Register of Probate Joanne Crowley joined in the meeting along with Sheriff Scott Story.)

**APPROPRIATES/EXPENDITURES:**

64% YTD has been paid. At the end of September 75% has been received, so this was good at this point. Jail board is 31% expended. S. Story reminded all that many of the counties boarding Waldo's inmates had not submitted bills yet.

When asked about gas expenditure budgeting, S. Story told the Commissioners that he budgeted at that day's price, which was \$3.50 per gallon.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion died for lack of a second because it was learned that the Treasurer wasn't finished with his report.**

**WARRANTS:**

D. Parkman read the expenses from the Restricted and Active Accounts and the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the September 13, 2005 Regular Warrant in the amount of \$166,677.78. Unanimous.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the September 13, 2005 Restricted/Active Reserves in the amount of \$8,970.90. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, J. Hyk seconded accepting the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

**PROBATE SURCHARGE:**

J. Crowley reported that a new law is in place. This surcharge must be kept separate and will be accruing its own interest. The Probate Registry will start collecting this on September 19, 2005.

It was also reported that Deeds interest must stay within the Deeds Surcharge and will be accounted for that way starting this year, 2005. Up to this point, all accrued interest has been applied to the Technology Reserve.

#### **JAIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners were Bruce Brierley of Searsmont, Kathy Littlefield of Waldo, Gene Ellis of Stockton springs, Grayson Hartley of Islesboro, Ben Lufkin of Brooks, County Archivist Cheryl Coats and Sheriff Scott Story.

G. Hartley started the presentation by submitting a written report to the Commissioners. He stated that this dedicated group has met a number of times and has reached the conclusion that a professional consultant is needed in order to work with the committee on the recommendations and suggested ideas. Regionalization of programs has been considered. The Committee feels that Waldo County should speak with other counties besides Knox.

G. Hartley noted that the Statewide Bond Issue is pending and it would take a lot to stimulate interest, but it could be cost effective. If a Jail could be purchased in that matter, it might be worth pursuing. This way bond interest could be avoided.

G. Boetsch asked if it would really matter to the people to save on interest or if the people were just against the project anyway.

S. Story replied that people were concerned about the interest over 30 years. Number 9 on the list of alternatives in the written report was referred to, which suggested that a county jail fund be established over a period of years that would lessen the impact of a bond issue on the towns involved.

J. Hyk agreed with establishing a reserve account for a jail. He also felt that Number 5 on the list (developing a plan to build a jail facility in phases) was a good idea. He asserted that an amount would have to be put into planning to get construction started, for example, sewer, road, power, etc.

K. Littlefield enumerated the over-all site costs at \$2 million, were broken down and provided by architect Dennis Jud. She was not sure how he obtained his figures.

J. Hyk advised knowing how much it would cost “to do nothing,” and added, “You would need to identify the costs first.”

S. Story informed the Commissioners that the Committee had learned from the architects that this could be broken down in phases. He announced that a few items that “had been put to bed” included rebuilding the Sheriff’s Office, adding onto the current jail, and using current property for a jail. He commented that Number 5 coincided well with getting started.

G. Ellis cautioned that the State may mandate that regionalization occur and advised waiting until January before going any further.

K. Littlefield advocated putting money away as the best start and have the Commissioners get behind the “revolving fund legislation.” She said that the M.C.C.A. was needed and that this is a statewide movement. S. Story felt that Maine Municipal Association should also get on board.

K. Littlefield suggested that someone from N.I.C. (Non-vested Interest) might come up with some creative ideas for how to progress. She believed that the group could budget for and start this, regardless of when the study comes out.

S. Story felt that the Commissioners could move forward with getting demolition costs and then a market price for the site. This could be considered as money for the “kitty.” The coastal communities would not be getting hit as hard. S. Story noted that counties in the southern parts of the states are “big” and may have a better method for this.

D. Parkman contested that the \$400,000.00 recently spent on boarding out inmates at other jail facilities could have been put toward a bond and Waldo County could be boarding out someone else’s inmates. He discussed the number of beds that Knox County put in their jail. Knox is still paying for its jail and it is already over-crowded.

G. Hartley mentioned that the Committee discussed whether the Jail needed to be as large as had been proposed at for the referendum in 2003. They had discussed programs that reduce inmate population. It was felt that the Committee would need to look closely at each alternative and prove that it either worked or did not work. He recommended that the information keep being put in front of the people, but acknowledged that this would be “a pile of work.”

J. Hyk reminded the group that the Commissioners had asked Penobscot and Knox counties if they were interested in funding a joint study that would reveal if a regionalized jail would be the way to go, but both Penobscot and Knox were not interested in paying for that study. J. Hyk reviewed the process that had taken place up to this point:

- The first step had been in 2000 when material collected in 1990 was reviewed that indicated a need back then for a new jail.
- A plan was formed with professionals. They came up with a better plan than the previous – which was nothing.
- The plan was put before the public, who rejected it. Now the County is working on it again.
- The Commissioners were asked if they agreed to put money into an account to start planning.
- The Commissioners and Budget Committee put money into the County Planning Reserve so that a consultant could be put into action.
- The Commissioners asked how much money should be put in a Reserve.

G. Hartley suggested looking at the entire budget in order to gauge how much the County could stand to reserve for this. B. Brierley agreed that, “the ball is now in the Commissioners’ court.”

B. Lufkin explained that his town set aside money for a new fire truck and felt that people would support saving for a jail.

J. Hyk asked for the group to offer advice about the minimum amount that should be placed in a reserve account. The consensus from the group was that it should be nothing less than \$100,000.00.

D. Parkman argued, “\$200,000.00 has been spent on planning already,” and asked, “when the planning would stop and construction would start.”

S. Story responded that this committee had a lot of big questions when they started meeting. Their constituents were the ones that “squashed” the jail referendum. He shared that the committee had had some “spirited discussions,” but had “stuck with it for sixteen meetings.” Some questions didn’t get answered. If these are answered, the people on the committee will support and seek support for others.

G. Ellis attested, “Convince me of a good plan and I’ll support it and talk to other selectmen about it. Don’t convince me and I’ll do whatever I can to defeat it again.”

K. Littlefield felt that money being allocated should not be just for a study. Once the study has been completed, whatever money is left should be used to move forward.

When asked, J. Hyk explained that funding for the professional consultant would come from County Planning reserve and \$100,000 would be funded for actual construction work in another reserve, preferably the Future Land and Buildings Reserve. He reminded all present that the Jail tends to be the main focus in this matter, but the Sheriff’s Office is also very much in need. “Waldo County is kind of in a bind that way,” he mused. “Other counties aren’t dealing with both issues. Keep in mind, as well, that there is no proper place for records, so there are other infrastructure problems, too.”

G. Ellis declared to the Commissioners that this committee had not cost them a cent because the volunteers all met on their own time without charging for anything.

J. Hyk read through the list of recommended steps as outlined in the report. G. Hartley felt that an infrastructure could be figured out for the Sheriff’s Office, too, along with the Jail.

D. Parkman challenged that there needed to be another way to fund the County Budget than by property taxes and State Valuation. J. Hyk agreed. “We’ll work on the Maine County Commissioners Association and you (the selectmen present) work on Maine Municipal Association.”

(Belfast City Manager Terry St. Peter had arrived in the middle of this presentation.) J. Hyk invited him to speak.

T. St. Peter expressed that the Jail Research Committee had spoken his opinions well; as he agreed with the conclusions they had arrived at.

S. Story reminded all that there have been comments made that the county has “dumped money into the jail.” He reminded all present of the “gutsy” vote made by Grayson Hartley that had passed the vote to purchase the 100 acres for county development.

Archivist and Grant Writer C. Coats, who had been listening in on the discussion, agreed with S. Story. She affirmed that property means that grant applications could show that the County has committed this much. They know what the County has, what’s committed, etc. It makes the proposals sent out by the County for grants that much better. They will show planning, that it has been backed and supported and that makes for a better chance to receive grant funds.

J. Hyk introduced C. Coats and explained how she has worked with records preservation grants and has been recently sent for other grant writing training. With her on board, the County has a capability they

did not originally have. J. Hyk then asked what the new reserve should be called for grant writing and asked if it should be called "Grant Matching." C. Coats responded that it should not be called that because when writing for grants, the County just needs to prove that it's trying to fund this. K. Littlefield suggested calling it "Jail Fund." J. Hyk suggested "Correctional/Sheriff's Facility." G. Hartley requested that, in the Commissioners deliberation, they create a timeline regarding coming out with something for the voters to vote on. He added that it is good to have a goal.

J. Hyk estimated 2008 as the time to try this. G. Hartley agreed, stating, "Even years are when you get more voters involved."

S. Story didn't think that the State would close the current jail if there were still space to board Waldo County inmates in other jails. J. Hyk calculated that this facility would have to be over-built a certain percentage by law, to avoid becoming overcrowded too quickly. He added that some of the extra unused space could be used to house jail records instead of leaving them in the Superior Courthouse basement. He expounded on the critical space issues in all the County departments, which have been that way for some time.

K. Littlefield asked if the current jail could be used for something else besides a jail. J. Hyk replied that the Commissioners really don't know the answer to that because they ran out of time with the study that was done three years ago. He confessed that they really do not know what to do with the buildings because they did not spend the money to find out if one or more of the buildings could be use for records storage.

G. Boetsch admitted that there was watering pouring in the roof and only half of the roof had been fixed in recent years.

S. Story mentioned that the current Sheriff's Office building had been appraised at over \$200,000.00. He suggested separating it from the jail and selling it. J. Hyk stated that more money needed to be put into planning for looking at what to do with the older buildings. G. Ellis suggested that H.U.D. might be interested in this project and gave J. Hyk a contact name of Terry Cole in Stockton Springs.

While the group was gathered together, T. St. Peter asked if he could take a minute to discuss the recent suggestion to change the funding mechanism for the County Communications Center budget. He expressed his concern about the recent suggestion to set up a fee structure rather than continue to pay for the Comm. Center via the County budget. He reminded all that the By-Laws for the Communications Center plainly state that funding is done by paying property taxes. He read from the By-Laws as follows: "Purpose of Organization: It is the intent of the Waldo County Commissioners to create a Waldo County Communications Center for the health and safety of all its citizens. We solicit all public safety agencies within Waldo County to be served by this Communications Center. This service will be provided by simply paying your property tax. There shall be no other tax or fees for this service." The document also read, "Role of the Commissioners: a. Acts as funding authority and host agency, recognizing that the Center shall be funded by the Waldo County Budget as permitted by [M.R.S.A. Title] 30-A, [subsection] 851."

S. Story recalled this being a big topic and that there was a driving force behind it being put in the valuation.

The Commissioners thanked the Jail Research Committee for it's hard work and for the report presented to them. The Commissioners would approach the Waldo County Budget Committee with the request to fund the County Planning Reserve in the amount of \$50,000.00 for studying and to fund the Future Land & Buildings Reserve in the amount of \$100,000.00 for actual work to be done on preparing for a new jail.

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded entering Executive Session as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1, § 405 at 11:00 a.m. for an update on the Union Negotiations. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, J. Hyk seconded exiting Executive Session at 11:20 a.m. Unanimous.**

#### **MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDINERS ASSOCIATION:**

Present with the Commissioners for this discussion were M.O.F.G.A. members Russell Libby, Barbara Luce, Heather Spaulding along with Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Robert Keating.

R. Libby started the discussion by explaining who M.O.F.G.A. is, what the organization does and the concern they have regarding the recent rise in cost to hire Sheriff's Deputies to serve as law enforcement at the Common Ground Fair.

R. Libby explained that M.O.F.G.A. is non-profit and has been doing the Common Ground Fair since 1999. 230 acres in Unity are used. There are 5,000 members in the State. The Fair is their "public face," and the money procured from this event partially funds M.O.F.G.A.'s budget. The Fair is two-thirds of the income. Last year, only 40% was earned. They are still paying \$80,000 per year for the mortgage and staff to keep it up. If it doesn't raise money, M.O.F.G.A. has to find money elsewhere.

Tickets to the Fair currently are \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors and free for 12 and under. 50,000 people come, on average. It is the biggest event in Waldo County.

A. Fowler, who lives near the fairground, complimented the Sheriff's office and M.O.F.G.A. for recognizing the need for hiring them for keeping traffic flowing smoothly.

R. Libby submitted M.O.F.G.A.'s programs budget for the Commissioners review. He also submitted a chart showing payments to the Sheriff's Department in recent years. He explained that Fryeburg makes huge donations and that M.O.F.G.A. and the County have always been able to sit down each year and have a good working relationship. There are generally 19 deputies on at different times during the day. The recent increase in pay for the deputies and the impact of this on M.O.F.G.A.'s budget were discussed.

S. Story recalled that they had met and sat down together in 2004 and the County went with the previous rate because of M.O.F.G.A.'s pre-approved budget, but he had cautioned them at that time that this was going to increase because the County was actually losing money. There was discussion of the workweek and that deputies already have a 40-hour week scheduled. This means that, unless part-time people are available, which is not often the case, these deputies qualify for overtime pay. He briefly reviewed the cost to the County for these deputies and what it costs the County is what is being charged, which is \$30.00 per hour.

M.O.F.G.A. has a “safety team” of six people per shift within the fairground. R. Libby reiterated that the relationship with the County has always been very good. S. Story agreed that the County felt the same. R. Keating confirmed, “All works well because it has been planned well.”

S. Story asked if anyone had checked with any private organizations to see how much they were charging. R. Libby responded that he had not done so recently. S. Story stated that he had checked with other public agencies and Waldo County was still charging less than most, but he had not checked with private agencies.

R. Libby explained that they were told that Waldo County did not want to work this detail in conjunction with any other agencies, so M.O.F.G.A. was “kind of forced into the payment of the overtime.” He suggested that there might need to be a blend with other agencies to keep the cost down. B. Luce stated that there are three police on the grounds, but the rest are involved with traffic control. S. Story was asked if he had any semi-retired officers available at a cheaper rate. S. Story explained that by law, he could not have an undeputized officer do this kind of work anymore. The provision for deputizing someone for a few days and to pay them at a cheaper rate no longer exists because of Fair Labor Standards. He added that law enforcement alone has the authority to stop a vehicle.

S. Story told the group that he has always enjoyed the great atmosphere at the Common Ground Fair and often does part of a detail himself because it is hard to fill that position at times. He described it as “a very enjoyable detail.”

B. Luce asked if it would be possible to obtain some sort of contract for budgeting. S. Story invited them to meet with him and to guarantee a rate so that they would be able to plan their budget in the future.

The M.O.F.G.A. members thanked the Commissioners and S. Story for meeting with them.

(Lunch break at 12:10 p.m.)

#### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners was James Conley, who reported the following:

1. He had discussed the District Courthouse chimney situation with Architect Robert Fenney. They thought they might be able to cut out a few bricks, line the top and then put the cap back on. This would be about 18” worth of brick. It was estimated that it would cost about \$500.00 to \$600.00 to do the job.
2. When asked, the boilers for District Courthouse would be about \$26,000.00. J. Hyk instructed J. Conley to put \$10,000.00 in the District Courthouse portion of the Budget and then the rest would be out of the Capital Courthouse Reserve. Put about 1/3 back into the Reserve, \$8,000.00 during 2006 and then \$8,000.00 during 2007 and 2008.
3. The Department of Labor visited about two weeks ago and he was awaiting a list of violations. J. Conley reported that the violations he was aware of in the Courthouses were minor, there was some electrical, stair, handrail and entrance issues at the Sheriff’s Office, outlets near showers needed to be grounded, drug and evidence needed to be removed from a walkway, etc. R. Keating had told him that they would get rid of it at the end of the year. J. Hyk said to deal with it when the letter listing the violations arrived.

4. R. Fenney wants something in writing from the companies selling the valves that will be placed in the Superior Courthouse indicating what brand and type they are before selecting one type.

5. 1030 – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BUDGET:

J. Conley reported that there was an item that had not been placed in the Sheriff's Dept. portion of the 2006 budget. He submitted copies of windows and vinyl siding estimates for the Commissioners' review. There was discussion of reasons to combine all the facilities management of all the buildings into one budget. However, it was noted that each building was given it's own line item numbers for tracking of work and expenditures.

6. There was some concern expressed over the condition of the District Courthouse roof. The Commissioners went outside to view the roof and found that there were areas that need attention very soon.

**MAYOR MICHAEL HURLEY – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ISSUES:**

The Mayor paid a surprise visit to the Commissioners during their meeting. He felt the need to come in and discuss his concerns about recent hurricane activity, the "Bird Flu," terrorism, etc. that have caused him to wonder what role the County E.M.A. and the State M.E.M.A play in disaster relief. He was very concerned about what the actual plans were, if there was anything in writing and worried about the lack of information. J. Hyk encouraged the Mayor to contact E.M.A. Director Richard Farris and then communicate in writing to the Commissioners his feelings after that interview. J. Hyk also explained that the State Director, Arthur Cleaves, works with the County E.M.A. Directors and then the County E.M.A. Directors meet with the individual Town E.M.A. Directors. D. Parkman commented that when he was selectman, County E.M.A. Director R. Farris gave him the right answers.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE BALLOTS FY 2006:**

B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that the following FY 2006 Budget Committee Members were voted to serve by the municipalities within the County:

District 1:

Vicki Conover of Islesboro with 2 votes

Bradford Payne of Lincolnville with 2 votes

District 2:

Richard Desmarais of Searsport with 4 votes (over Eugene Ellis with 1 vote)

District 3:

Thomas C. Pilsbury of Palermo with 5 votes

Wilson Hess of Freedom with 8 votes

Returning to serve another year on the Budget Committee are:

District 1: Rachel McDonald of Belfast

District 2: Samuel Butler of Winterport and Bill Sneed of Prospect

District 3: James Bennett of Thorndike

**CORRESPONDENCE**



Present for reviewing correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to discuss correspondence and Deputy County Clerk Veronica LaBreck, to take minutes.

1. Archivist C. Coats sent an Email with the Superior Court schedule for the Commissioners so that they would know how many days she anticipated sharing law library space with attorneys, judges, etc.
2. **HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT:** C. Coats sent word to the Commissioners notifying them that the way this particular grant works is invoices must be collected and sent and these will be reimbursed for what was used only. Ultimately, the money comes from the Federal Government and is distributed by the State.
3. **JAIL RECORDS:** Coats notified the Commissioners that the Jail records recently brought over from the E.M.A. location where they had been stored have now filled the Superior Courthouse basement to “full and overflowing.” She noted that this does not include the Sheriff’s Office records. The Commissioners were dismayed to learn that many of these records, once sorted, will remain for up to 80 years and that the basement, which had just recently been cleared of old records, was now being used to house other long-term records.
4. The Commissioners noted the following pay step increases:
  - Corrections Officer Benjamin Drouin Will received a one-year pay increase from \$12.87 to \$13.01 per hour, effective September 6, 2005.
  - Corrections Officer Michael Hopkins will receive a six-month pay increase from \$12.71 to \$12.87 per hour, effective September 8, 2005.
  - Deputy James Greeley will receive a six-month pay increase from \$13.99 to \$14.15 per hour, effective September 13, 2005.
5. Sarah Fricke, VISTA Volunteer with the Waldo Community Action Partners (WCAP) Healthy Community Coalition Coordinator, forwarded an invitation from the Waldo County Democratic Committee to join them in a non-partisan activity as a partner, sponsor, presenter or participant at a workshop on October 15, 2005 at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The workshop would provide information about organizations that currently address the fuel and energy crisis, winterization, safety and fire issues, alternative heat, etc. This group is forming a Heating Crisis Community Response Team and is requesting a representative from the County to assist. They are looking for a broad variety of representatives from all different kinds of agencies, companies, etc. The first steering committee meeting will be held September 8, 2005 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the ECAP conference room and are requesting someone’s presence and ideas. B. Arseneau had notified the Commissioners about these meetings and dates by telephone. None of the Commissioners intended to be involved.
6. B. Arseneau reported that NACo (National Association of Counties) was requesting funds to help counties/parishes and their employees in response to the ongoing disaster by way of a relief program called “Rebuilding the Gulf Coast.” This program will aid counties/parishes and their employees in the hardest hit states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Some have responded by giving donations as individuals and families, and NACo has appointed a task force of local officials to help guide the project. It had been requested that each county share this information with all employees in hopes that donations might be gathered and sent.

The Commissioners felt that it was important not to be soliciting for donations that would be sent in the name of Waldo County, but if individual employees wanted to make donations on their own, the address could be sent as information only to the various departments.

7. A letter from Attorney Clarissa Edelston of Eaton Peabody had been received. Ms. Edelston refunded the County \$1,786.35 for charges over the agreed upon amount for fees related to the Winters Associates study. She had not been made aware that the estimate she provided Mr. Winters was voted on and accepted as the limit by the County Commissioners and apologized for the miscommunication between Mr. Winters and her firm.

8. During the most recent Department Heads/Safety Meeting, concern over security issues in the County buildings was discussed. Several of the departments expressed concern that there was no funding to man the metal detectors that the State has purchased over the past few years. The District Attorney's office was a particular because there is absolutely nothing to prevent an irate or violent person from coming right into the office. All the clerical departments felt vulnerable. The panic buttons are better than nothing, but preventing weapons in the buildings and some sort of locked door arrangement similar to that of the Communications Center, Sheriff's Department and Jail would be better. Leane Zainea had strongly urged that the County be talking to the State about these security issues before a tragedy occurred.

9. B. Arseneau asked the Commissioners if the recent change in the pay scale for the Lieutenants was supposed to use the figure from the 20-year level and work back toward the starting pay. The Commissioners instructed the Clerk to wait until the pay scales have been redone this coming spring.

10. BELFAST TRAILS: James "Skip" Pendleton and Murray Carpenter sent a letter as follow up to the first letter sent earlier in the year requesting that this group be allowed to run part of their walking trail around Belfast through the County's recently purchased property at the end of Upper Congress St. As requested by the Commissioners, Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Carpenter had spoken with architect Dennis Jud about the idea of the trail. Mr. Jud had requested that they keep him informed of details as they developed. They had also spoken with Randy Doak of the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District and he felt that there should be no erosion problems if the train is properly sited. They stated that they knew that Belfast Trails would have no prescriptive rights and were only asking for the right to minimally clear a small footpath, with no access for wheeled vehicles. The group's goal is to cut a trail from the Upper Reservoir to the edge of the County's property this fall and plan to go onto the County's property in spring. Prior to doing anything, they would supply the Commissioners with a detailed map of the area indicating the preferred trail location. They also offered to walk the proposed trail route with any who were interested. The Commissioners told B. Arseneau to have an attorney look at the proposed trail when it arrived.

11. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that, even with having contacted Maine Municipal Association for figures last year, the Workers Comp Audit was going to put the County in the "red again" this year by about \$8,110.00, even though she had consulted with M.M.A. before setting this year's budget. B. Arseneau apologized and told the Commissioners she would be trying to get a more accurate figure in detail from M.M.A.

12. None of the Commissioners would be attending the Annual meeting of the Maine Development Foundation's 27<sup>th</sup> meeting on September 23, 2005.

13. May Lou Gallup, Program Officer for Maine PowerOptions, sent a document detailing the pricing update Trigger Contract and current market conditions and options for electrical providers. She would continue to watch the pricing for the next two weeks and prices for a three-year supply contract to start in December 2005 were at 12 cents last week and have dropped 10 cents. She was of the opinion that they may drop again. Before October 1<sup>st</sup>, an assessment will be made of whether or not meeting the 7.9 trigger goal is likely and then options to consider will be offered to the County.

14. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that there was some confusion on whether the budget line 3000 is supposed to be called "Personal Services" or "Personnel Services." The Commissioners requested that B. Arseneau contact the other counties to take a poll and get back to them.

15. B. Arseneau reminded the Commissioners that there would be no MCCA meeting in September but that it would be held at the MCCA Convention on September 16, 2005.

16. The Safety/Department Head Association voted that the following people serve in the same capacity as before on the MACo Committees:

- Commissioner Greg Boetsch and Communications Director Owen Smith would serve again on the Legislative Subcommittee.
- Register of Probate Joanne Crowley would serve on the Education Committee. (It had later been learned that J. Crowley was unable to serve, so this position was vacant at this point.) The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to send the list with just the two names.

17. B. Arseneau and K. Ward described the issues and confusion that have arisen with the counties' attempts to determine the Tax Cap. The formula sent to the towns had been challenged as incorrect; was resubmitted with the correction and now was being disputed again. B. Arseneau has submitted the request to the towns twice and K. Ward stated that she would do her best to decipher what the towns send back.

18. B. Arseneau relayed the request from the Safety/Dept. Head Association that the budget line currently listed as "Safety Committee Supplies" be changed to "Safety/Department Head Committee Supplies." The Commissioners authorized this change, starting with the 2006 budget. B. Arseneau also relayed the request of the Association for the line item to be raised from \$700.00 to \$1,450.00 in order to do more training as a group and possibly put on an employee appreciation/safety day. The Commissioners denied this request, and directed that it remain at \$700.00.

19. Any county employees who wish to volunteer to assist in disaster relief should be registered through M.E.M.A. (Maine Emergency Management Agency.)

20. Patricia Pierson of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension will be retiring in October and the Commissioners were invited to attend a surprise retirement party in her honor. The Commissioners extended their best wishes to Ms. Pierson in the future and expressed appreciation for her years of hard work at the Extension.

21. The Commissioners were informed of the unexpected passing of H.R./Payroll Director Michelle Adams' father, Jon Adams on August 19, 2005. The Commissioners expressed their deepest sympathy to Michelle and her family.

**DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATE FUNDING FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER:**

The Commissioners received a letter from Islesboro Town Manager Damaris Diffin on behalf of the Islesboro Selectmen requesting alternate funding for the Communications Center than the current funding through property taxes. It was the opinion of the Selectmen that funding it by taxes was not mandatory and suggested that Waldo County review the fee schedule currently used by Knox County. They requested a written decision on this matter. The Selectmen also requested any listing of potential legislation that the "might advocate with the County Commissioners for in Augusta."

J. Hyk noted that the By-Laws for the Waldo County Regional Communications Center stated that this service would be provided through paying property tax and it also states that the Center shall be funded by the Waldo County Budget as permitted by Title 30-A, 851.

The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to respond by thanking Islesboro for offering to work with the County to advocate for certain legislation and that the County would contact them when such legislation came up. As for the user fee request, they felt that it was not in the best interest of the County as a whole and would not be possible to do. They asked B. Arseneau to consult with Communications Director Owen Smith before drafting this letter.

**BUDGETS FOR FY 2006:**

B. Arseneau presented the FY 2006 Budget Request first draft to the County Commissioners. They would review the Budget and meet on September 27, 2005 with the various Department Heads and Agencies to go over each budget. The Commissioners briefly reviewed the Commissioners 1020 Budget and the Employee Benefits 2025 Budget.

**BUDGET STATUTES:**

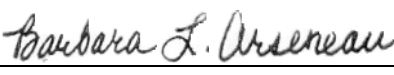
**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded having an attorney review the statutes pertaining to the Budget Committee and budget process. Passed by 2, J. Hyk opposed.**

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded approving the October 19, 2004 Commissioners Minutes. Unanimous.**

**The next Waldo County Commissioners Court Session will be September 27, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting after that will be October 11, 2005.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded adjourning the meeting at 3:38 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by   
Waldo County Clerk